

Editorial Note

António Brandão Moniz (Director) and José Miquel Cabeças (Editor)

The years 2007 and 2008 represented an important step in the IET re-organisation process. It took place a re-focus on the areas of enterprise and work innovation, managed a self-assessment process, and at the end of 2008 (December) it will take place the external evaluation of the research centre organised by the Ministry of Science, Technology and High Education. The common IET research group continued to be dedicated either to the study of organisational innovation processes from re-structuring and changes in the relation with the market (through mergers and new competition relations) and with technology, or to the methodologies and foresight analysis techniques. Also IET supported the study of enterprise networks and on ergonomics and working conditions analysis.

The main activities of IET in 2008 were also the development of the "IET Working Papers Series" publication, the edition and distribution of the 3rd issue of the journal and the organisation of the 3rd Annual Meeting of Post-Graduation Research. Some of the papers presented in this meeting with MSc and PhD students were published in the IET WPS. Finally, is also worth to mention the preparation of this edition of the IET journal.

During 2008 was concluded the study for APDSI on the "Evolution from Analogical to Digital in the field of Work" co-ordinated by António Brandão Moniz (IET and FCT-UNL) in collaboration with Fátima Assunção (ISCSP-UTL), Margarida Paulos (IET, FCT-UNL) and Paula Urze (IET and FCT-UNL). It took also place the public presentation of a book from José Miquel Cabeças (IET and FCT-UNL) on working conditions of cleaning workers in service industries ("Condições de trabalho de empregados de limpeza em instalações de serviços"). This study was supported by the ACT-Autoridade para as Condições do Trabalho (National Authority for Working Conditions). A conference from Nuno Boavida (GPEARI, MCTES) was held about the characterization of ICT in the OECD countries at FCT-UNL premises. Finally, also António B. Moniz presented a conference on the concept of Technology Assessment and associated policies, as a result of the organization of a new doctoral program on "Technology Assessment" approved in 2008 at the FCT-UNL to start in 2009/2010.

The opening article was developed by Monique Ramioul from HIVA (Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium) on work organisation and restructuring in the knowledge Society, based on the main conclusion of the WORKS project. It was based on the key-note speech at the 2nd International Conference on "Foresight Studies on Work in the Knowledge Society" held by IET in January 2009 at FCT-Universidade Nova de Lisboa. The second article was authored by Maria Conceição Cerdeira and Ilona Kovács (both from ISEG-UTL and researcher at SOCIUS) on the concept and empirical evidences of job quality in Europe using a North-South divide approach.

The third article was also based on a paper from Tobias Woll (ITAS-FZK and IET) presented in the above-mentioned conference. It is a synopsis of several global scenario and forecasting surveys. A special focus is made on the scenarios in a project on Risk Habitat Megacity (RHM) . Margarida R. Paulos (IET) wrote the next article on the futures of work and skills. It was based on her paper for that same conference and is focused in some foresight exercises in Europe and USA. António B. Moniz, coordinator of IET and professor at FCT-UNL, analysed the scenarios on the future of work and tried to assess them and their construction process.

Next comes an article on the future gender relations in global restructuring processes. It is a case study analysis developed by Linda Nierling (ITAS-Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe) on knowledge-intensive manufacturing and service occupations. A collective article follows on new shop floor control approaches for Virtual Enterprises written by Luis Ribeiro (UNINOVA), José Barata (FCT-UNL) and Nelson Silvério (UNINOVA). Both articles were also presented as papers in the mentioned conference. The last article is a characterization of accidents to cleaners in the Portuguese service sector studied by José Miquel Cabeças (from FCT-UNL and member of the scientific board of IET).

As usual in this journal, the last pages of this IET journal issue are dedicated to academic activities of IET members during this last year. It contains information on integration activity in academic juries, and two conference report authored by Margarida Paulos and António Brandão Moniz.

Finally, we would like to mention that the new journal Editor was nominated after a transitional process. Prof. José Miquel Cabeças is already taking this job and is also a national expert on ergonomics and working conditions analysis and professor at the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of Universidade Nova de Lisboa. He has been collaborating with IET as a founder member and coordinating the research field of ergonomics and safety.